



# Public Affairs Office

United States Army Corps of Engineers

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## Public Service Announcement / News Release

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### Additional Information Available on the Former Camp Wheeler Military Ordnance Investigation

Macon, Georgia – This announcement provides more information on the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) study the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is performing on the former Camp Wheeler. As the community was previously informed, this study is being conducted to determine if any old unexploded Army ammunition remains at the former training base.

The Corps' contractor, EODT Inc, located at Knoxville, Tennessee, has prepared maps showing where they propose to look for old ammunition. These maps were placed at the Washington Memorial Library, 1180 Washington Avenue, in Macon, Georgia, on Dec. 29, 2003. The maps are also immediately available on the contractor's web site at [www.formercampwheeler.com](http://www.formercampwheeler.com) for residents to examine.

The Corps is asking the public to look at the proposed sampling locations and provide assistance since residents may receive a request for a "Right of Entry" onto their property in order for the Corps to conduct the survey. The Corps' contractor will not enter any property without signed permission to do so.

Additionally, the Corps is asking the public to inform them of other locations they think should be sampled that are not currently marked for sampling on the proposed maps.

Surveys have been conducted in past years and this information will be used in the comprehensive draft EE/CA report that will be prepared for the residents of Macon County, and other stakeholders to review. This study will include a listing of ordnance items found during the field geophysical mapping and digging, and recommendations on what final actions should be taken to clean-up remnants of ammunition at the former Camp Wheeler.

### **Background**

The War Department used the site as a mobilization center from 1917 to 1918 and as an infantry replacement center from 1940 to 1945. The first Camp Wheeler was established July 18, 1917, as a temporary training camp for National Guard units in Federal service and consisted primarily of tents in a cantonment area for the 29,000 officers and enlisted men. The first Camp Wheeler was officially closed on April 10, 1919.

On Oct. 8, 1940, the second Camp Wheeler was established, with construction beginning on Dec. 21, 1940. Rather than being used to train entire units, the camp was an Infantry Replacement Training Center where new recruits received basic and advanced individual training to replace combat casualties. The camp was divided into three major portions: a cantonment area, a maneuver area, and a main impact area. The types of ammunition fired into the impact area were common infantry weapons at the time: small arms ammunition, anti-tank rockets, 37mm and mortar projectiles. To add realism to training, there was one training area where recruits maneuvered in the impact area while 105mm artillery projectiles were fired overhead. On the periphery of the impact area, explosive grenades, bangalore torpedoes, demolition charges and booby traps were used. At the height of the training effort, the camp contained 17,000 trainees and 3,000 cadre personnel. The camp was declared excess on Jan. 19, 1946, followed by a dedudding operation in the fall of 1946, when the land was returned to the owners.

### **Current Site Use**

Currently the site is used for a variety of purposes. The southern portion of the site, which was used as the main impact area, is primarily used for kaolin mining and forestry. The remaining portion of the site contains an industrial park and several housing subdivisions.

If you have ever found ordnance or know where ordnance is located please report this to the points of contact below.

### **Points of Contact for Questions:**

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